

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on October 5, 2005. Claims 1-5 and 12-21 have been canceled. Claims 6-11, 22 and 23 now remain in the application. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the claims in view of the following remarks. Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in complete condition for allowance and request reconsideration of the application in this regard.

Claims 6-11, 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 201 06 348 U1 to Grope ("Grobe"). Grope is directed to a heated hose for a hot melt adhesive system. The hose includes at least two electrical thermal sensor for controlling the temperature of the melted adhesive being conducted through the hose. The sensors may be thermocouples or temperature-dependent resistors. The hose is used in combination with a control unit, to which the thermal sensors are electrically coupled, and further includes a switch for switching from one thermal sensor to the other thermal sensor. The switch may be a manual switch or may be an electronic switch, which switches to the second sensor when the first sensor fails. The control unit may include an optical display to indicate that one of the sensors has failed and that the system has switched to the other sensor.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states "Grobe teaches a hot melt system having a back-up temperature sensor, thermistor—paeg (sic) 6 on line 2 in the translation of the same, with an automatic switching over to the second thermistor sensor when the first sensor fails." (Office Action, p. 2). In essence, it is the Examiner's

position that Grope teaches using a first thermal sensor to measure the temperature of the melted adhesive flowing through the hose and upon failure of that sensor automatically activating the second sensor to start measuring the temperature. Thus, at any given time, only one sensor is being used to control the temperature of the adhesive in the hose and upon failure of that sensor, the other sensor is activated and used to control the temperature.

Applicants respectfully submit, however, that even if such an interpretation of Grope is true, it does not apply to the subject matter recited in independent claim 6.

In particular, claim 6 recites:

a controller actively connected to said first temperature sensing device and actively connected to said second temperature sensing device such that said first and second temperature sensing devices sense the temperature of the heated liquid in said passage and communicate the sensed temperature readings to said controller.

Claim 6 recites that both the first and second temperature sensing devices be used to control the temperature of the heated liquid. The specification explicitly defines "actively connected" to mean "that the temperature sensing device is being used to control the temperature of the liquid conveying element." (p. 4, Ins. 9-10). Thus, the controller monitors both temperature sensing devices and operates the heating element based on both of the readings to maintain a desired temperature. Grope fails to teach or suggest operating both temperature sensors at the same time and operating a heater based on both of the temperature readings. Accordingly, Grope does not teach or suggest the combination of elements recited in independent claim 6 and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Moreover, as claims 7-11, 22 and 23 depend from allowable independent claim 6, Applicants submit that these claims are allowable as well.


Conclusion

In view of the foregoing response, this application is submitted to be in complete condition for allowance and early notice to this affect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes any matter requires further discussion, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the matter may be promptly resolved.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due in connection with this response. However, if such petition is due or any fees are necessary, the Commissioner may consider this to be a request for such and charge any necessary fees to deposit account 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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